

Jean-Pierre FALASCHI et al.

R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) Binder according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that it is quasi-free
from free residual MgO, at least as it can be observed on
X-ray diffraction spectrum for the binder.

6. (Amended) Binder according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that it has the
following chemical composition by dry weight of the binder :

- | | | |
|--|---|------------|
| - lime CaO | : | 4 to 12% |
| - magnesia MgO | : | 19 to 23% |
| - alumina Al ₂ O ₃ | : | 69 to 74%. |

8. (Amended) Binder according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~**claim 1**, characterized in that it comprises a
SiO₂ content of less than 0.5% of the binder by dry weight.

9. (Amended) Binder according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 8~~ **claim 1**, characterized in that it has a Blaine
area surface at least equal to 3000 cm²/g.

10. (Amended) Use of a binder according to ~~any one~~
~~of claims 1 to 9~~**claim 1** for producing a refractory concrete.

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13. (Amended) Use of a binder according to ~~any one of claims 10 to~~ claim 12, characterized in that it is used in the manufacture of steel ladles (1), preferably for wear linings (5) of such steel ladles (1). 14. (Amended) Process for producing a binder according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the binder is made through frittering by burning of a blend of raw materials comprising dolomite, alumina and magnesia.

16. (Amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 14 or 15~~ claim 14, characterized in that alumina is metallurgical.

17. (Amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~ claim 14, characterized in that magnesia is reactive, preferably caustic, and has advantageously a grain size 100% lower than 100 µm, preferably lower than 40 µm.

18. (Amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14, characterized in that, before burning, the raw materials are milled up to a grain size corresponding to a 2% maximum rejection in a sieve of 65 µm.

19. (Amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 18~~ claim 14, characterized in that burning is carried out at a temperature comprised between 1400°C and 1600°C.

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20. (Amended) Process according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 14 to 19~~claim 14, characterized in that the degree
of progression of the burning is evaluated by measuring the
free magnesia content by dry weight of the mixture.